

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BANGKO 08718 211111Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /049 W

-----211123Z 041709 /13

O 211050Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1381

INFO DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC HONOLULU IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 8718

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TH

SUBJ: REPORTED EXECUTION OF GENERAL CHALAT HIRANYASIRI; RUMORS
OF CABINET RESHUFFLE

REF: BANGKOK 6585

1. PRESS SOURCES IN BANGKOK HAVE INFORMED EMBASSY THAT AT ABOUT 1400 APR 21 GEN CHALAT HIRANYASIRI, LEADER OF ABORTIVE COUP D'ETAT OF MAR 26, WAS EXECUTED. FOUR OTHER RINGLEADERS OF COUP (LTC SANAN KHACHONPRASAT, MAJ BUNLOET KAEOPRASIT, MAJ WISIT KHONPRASOET, AND MAJ ATSAWIN HIRANYASIRI) WERE SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT. BRITISH EMBASSY HAS OBTAINED SEPARATE CONFIRMATION OF EXECUTION. BASIS FOR EXECUTION WAS ARTICLE 21 OF CONSTITUTION, WHICH REQUIRES THE PRIME MINISTER'S PERSONAL APPROVAL.

2. BANGKOK WORLD APR 21 STATES PMAC MET AT 1000 TO DISCUSS ABORTIVE COUP OF MAR 26.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BANGKO 08718 211111Z

3. TIMING OF DECISION TO EXECUTE GEN CHALAT (WHICH HAD BEEN PREDICTED BY NUMEROUS THAI MILITARY AFTER CHALAT REPORTEDLY SHOT AND KILLED MG ARUN THAWATHASIN DURING COUP) MAY BE EXPLAINED BY IMPENDING DEPARTURE OF GENERAL KRIANGSAK CHAMANAN FOR TWO WEEK VISIT TO U.S. EVENING OF APR 21. IN THIS READING, THIS IS ONE PIECE OF BUSINESS WHICH KRIANGSAK COULD NOT RPT NOT HAVE LEFT UNDONE. EXECUTION OF GEN CHALAT WOULD ALSO EXPLAIN, AT LEAST

IN PART, OTHERWISE PUZZLING DECLARATION OF PARTIAL ALERT OF ALL MILITARY AND POLICE UNITS IN BANGKOK, ORDERED APR 19 BY GEN SOEM NA NAKHON, IN HIS CAPACITY AS PAACEKEEPING DIRECTOR FOR BANGKOK. REASON OFFICIALLY GIVEN FOR ORDER WAS THAT IT WAS A PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE, BUT SITUATION IN BANGKOK IS NORMAL, AND NO RPT NO UNUSUAL TROOP MOVEMENTS HAVE BEEN REPORTED.

4. GEN KRIANGSAK CHAMANAN, DEPUTY SUPREME COMMANDER AND SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S ADVISORY COUNCIL, TOLD PRESS AFTERNOON OF APR 20 THAT ALERT WAS NOT RPT NOT REALLY NEW, AS IT HAD BEEN IN EFFECT SINCE ABORTIVE COUP ATTEMPT OF MAR 26. HE TOLD PRESS HIS DEPARTURE FOR U.S. EVENING OF APR 21 WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE AFFECTED BY PARTIAL ALERT.

5. EXECUTION OF GEN CHALAT MAY BE SOMEHOW RELATED TO THE WAVE OF RUMORS IN BANGKOK OF IMPENDING CHANGES IN CABINET. RUMORS WERE HEIGHTENED BY FACT THAT PRIME MINISTER THANIN DID NOT RPT NOT APPEAR AT RECEPTION HE WAS SCHEDULED TO HOST EVENING OF APR 20 ON OCCASION OF OPENING SESSION OF ESCAP. REASON GIVEN FOR THANIN'S NON-APPEARANCE WAS THAT HE HAD BEEN SUMMONED TO PALACE FOR AUDIENCE WITH KING.

6. COMMENT: COINCIDENCE OF EXECUTION OF GEN CHALAT AND POSSIBLE CHANGES IN CABINET APPEARS GENUINELY FORTUITOUS, BUT RESULT HAS BEEN THAT INDICATORS OF EACH EVENT HAVE TENDED TO BE MIXED UP. THANIN AND HIS CABINET WILL HAVE BEEN IN OFFICE SIX MONTHS ON APR 22, AND IT HAS LONG BEEN INTENTION OF PMAC TO CONSIDER HOW WELL CABINET HAS PERFORMED AFTER ITS INITIAL SIX MONTHS IN OFFICE. RUMORS HAVE IT THAT SOME FIGURES IN PMAC ARE PRESSING FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BANGKO 08718 211111Z

CHANGE OF UP TO SIX CABINET MINISTERS, WITH THANIN AGREEING TO CHANGE THREE, AND BARGAINING CONTINUING.

7. THAI SOCIETY IS GENERALLY VERY OPEN, AND COMING EVENTS NORMALLY CAST THEIR SHADOWS WELL IN ADVANCE. HOWEVER, EXECUTION OF CHALAT HAS DEMONSTRATED THAT THAI CAN KEEP A SECRET WHEN THEY WANT TO, AND REPORTED PRESSURE FROM PMAC FOR CABINET CHANGES HAS ALSO BEEN RELATIVELY WELL-KEPT AND OUT OF PUBLIC VIEW. WHITEHOUSE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, PRESS COMMENTS, EXECUTIONS, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BANGKO08718
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770138-0893
Format: TEL
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770435/aaaabduf.tel
Line Count: 106
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7afcb0a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BANGKOK 6585
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2742566
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORTED EXECUTION OF GENERAL CHALAT HIRANYASIRI; RUMORS OF CABINET RESHUFFLE
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TH, (CHALAT HIRANYASIRI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7afcb0a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009